

Advent Devotional

by Cathy Batson

Why Not the Stars?

“After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.”

—Matthew 2:9 New International Version

This well-known verse reminds me that I have been told that

my ancestors followed Polaris, a star that guided them north to freedom.

I've reflected on both scenarios and in each instance all parties placed their trust in lights that are scientifically celestial bodies made of hydrogen and helium, at the same time expressing inexplicable magical components that are beatifically mesmerizing.

It is difficult to star gaze in the city, but my wife and I have a completely different experience when we spend time at the log house in the country where her parents live. I am absolutely smitten by the power the stars have over me, my feet are glued to the ground as my eyes take in all the splendor they can tolerate, before looking away.



I can feel the presence of God, and if I look hard enough and adjust my eyes I believe I see the outline of God's face, eyes looking directly at me, indeed through me. In that moment God has my undivided attention; I feel protected, whole and loved.

I ask myself, what is it about the stars that makes one feel so light, and free? Well, why not the stars? They are perfect in every way, God's intricate creation clothed in their own uniqueness. Makes me feel I'm at the center of the universe. I thank the holy one for all Creation, but I'm particularly thankful for the stars.

They are absolutely perfect, beautiful, in every way, but then again isn't everything that God creates perfect and beautiful in every way?

So why not the stars?
